

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0279

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FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AR

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS CALL ON PRESIDENT PERON

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY WILLIAM D. ROGERS ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR HILL AND DCM MONTLLOR CALLED ON PRESIDENT MARIA ESTELA MARTINEZ DE PERON IN HER GOVERNMENT HOUSE OFFICE AT NOON AT MARCH 11. ACCOMPANYING MRS. PERON WERE FONMIN VIGNES AND CHIEF OF PROTOCOL GIRALDES. MINISTER OF WELFARE LOPEZ REGA GREETED THE AMERICAN CALLERS IN THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE BUT WITHDREW AFTER THE INTRODUCTIONS WERE COMPLETED.

2. MRS. PERON EXPRESSED GREAT SATISFACTION AT THE VISIT BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS AND HOPED THAT HIS MEETINGS WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WERE FRUITFUL. ASST SECY ROGERS THANKED PRESIDENT PERON FOR THE EXTREME KINDNESS OF THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AND EXPLAINED THAT HIS TRIP WAS IN PREPARATION FOR A VISIT IN A FEW WEEKS BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE. MRS. PERON EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT HIS TRIP WOULD BE MADE SOON AS IT WAS OF GREAT INTEREST TO ARGENTINA.

3. THE FONMIN VIGNES EXPLAINED IN BROAD TERMS THAT HE AND ASST SECY ROGERS HAD HAD A FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

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ON ISSUES OF BILATERAL INTEREST AS WELL AS THINGS OF CON-

TINENTAL SCOPE. PRESIDENT PERSON SAID THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY RESULT IN STRENGTHENING ARGENTINA/UNITED STATES FRIENDSHIP, WHICH HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN WARM.

4. WHEN THE ASST. SECY. POINTED WHAT A GREAT HONOR IT WAS TO MEET WITH THE ONLY WOMAN PRESIDENT IN THE WORLD, SHE REPLIED IN ALL MODESTY THAT SHE WAS FULFILLING THE WISHES OF THE ARGENTINE PEOPLE, AND THAT AS A WOMEN SHE WAS TRYING TO DO HER BEST TO SATISFY THEIR ASPIRATIONS. SHE THEN SAID THAT SHE HAD HEARD THAT AN AMERICAN WOMAN HAD RECENTLY ACHIEVED THE RANK OF GENERAL IN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES, AND COMMENTED THAT WHILE THERE WERE NO WOMAN GENERALS IN ARGENTINA, THE ARGENTINE ARMED FORCES HAD A WOMAN COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF IN THEIR PRESIDENT.

5. UPON TAKING LEAVE OF PRESIDENT PERON, ASST. SECY. ROGERS CONVEYED TO HER THE BEST WISHES OF PRESIDENT FORD. SHE REQUESTED THAT THE SENTIMENTS OF FRIENDSHIP BE RECIPROCATED.

6. THE MEETING LASTED 15 MINUTES. MRS. PERONN WHILE VERY FRAIL-LOOKING, APPEARED IN EXCELLENT HEALTH AND IN GOOD SPIRITS.
HILL

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